

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS**

**MAYOR:** Louie A. Trujillo

**COUNCILORS:** David G. Romero  
Barbara Casey  
Michael L. Montoya  
David Ulibarri

**ALSO PRESENT:** Leo Maestas, City Manager  
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk  
Scott Aaron, City Attorney  
Antonio Salazar, Sergeant at Arms

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Trujillo called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Casey made a motion to move business item #7 before business item #1 and also to move executive session before business item #3. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

**NOMINATION OF MAYOR PRO TEM**

Mayor Trujillo thanked Councilor Romero for being a wonderful Mayor Pro Tem and for always showing up to meetings when Mayor Trujillo called.

Councilor Casey advised traditionally usually the next one in-line, is the one with the most experience. Councilor Casey nominated Councilor Ulibarri.

Councilor Ulibarri rejected his nomination.

Councilor Ulibarri nominated Councilor Romero.

Councilor Montoya nominated Councilor Casey.

Mayor Trujillo ceased nominations for Mayor Pro Tem.

Nomination of Councilor Romero as Mayor Pro Tem by Councilor Ulibarri. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael Montoya	No
Barbara Casey	No		

Councilor Romero withdrew his nomination.

Councilor Montoya advised change is good and if someone wants to serve then they should be given the opportunity. Councilor Montoya thanked Councilor Romero for serving as Mayor Pro Tem.

Nomination of Councilor Casey as Mayor Pro Tem by Councilor Montoya. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes
David Ulibarri	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised all were in favor.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

City Clerk Fresquez read public input from the following:

Michael Martinez thanked Interim Fire Chief Spann for the resolution on restricting fireworks in Las Vegas and for going the extra mile during the wildfire to protect the City and its residents. Mr. Martinez advised his hard work and dedication to our City earned him the right to be considered as the permanent Fire Chief. Mr. Martinez asked when Council would be voting on making Steven Spann the permanent Fire Chief.

Councilor Montoya advised the Pledge of Allegiance was not on the agenda.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Las Vegas Police Officer Jordan Ellis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Trujillo advised there would be a meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2022 with the Governor's Office regarding services that may be needed for the community. Mayor Trujillo discussed the quality of the water supply for the City of Las Vegas and advised the quality is impeccable, there is plenty of water in storage and he asked citizens to conserve water when they can. Mayor Trujillo advised they are working around the clock to get to the burn scars to mitigate the land before ash and debris gets into the river during a rain event.

City Manager Maestas advised they did a damage assessment in a portion of the watershed, the diversion dam and the reservoirs. City Manager Maestas advised they met with California Emergency Management, NM Homeland Security, NM Forest Service, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, City Staff, City Water Engineers, EPA and Oklahoma Emergency Management. City Manager Maestas advised a lot of those agencies have gone through these catastrophes, so they want to show them what lessons they learned so they don't make the same mistakes. City Manager Maestas advised they are looking at mitigation efforts for the future.



City Manager Maestas reported on the numbers from the last four auctions and advised they auctioned off 57 vehicles and 93 items for a total amount of about \$200,000.00.

### **COUNCILORS' REPORTS**

Councilor Montoya recognized and thanked all the volunteers and those who have donated to the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire. Councilor Montoya advised people have generously donated from Arizona, Albuquerque, the South Valley, Santa Fe, Raton and Colorado. Councilor Montoya also thanked all the first responders and City Staff for coming together.

Councilor Ulibarri recognized Dolores Ortega for helping at the Memorial Middle School and for helping her neighbors. Councilor Ulibarri also thanked all the City Staff and those fighting the fires.

Councilor Montoya mentioned the 37 vacancies within the City of Las Vegas and encouraged people to apply.

Councilor Romero thanked City Manager Maestas and Public Works Director Lopez for unloading three semi loads of items from Global Citizen. Councilor Romero advised there would be a distribution drive on Monday, May 23, 2022 for those affected by the fires. Councilor Romero thanked all the salary employees for going above and beyond. Councilor Romero advised he wants to see how they could get those that are salary reimbursed for their time. Councilor Romero thanked Interim Fire Chief Spann for getting the group of firefighters from Santa Fe for structural support for the City of Las Vegas and for being very proactive.

Councilor Montoya invited Mayor and Council to the ribbon ceremony at Hanna Park on May 24, 2022 at 9 am.

Councilor Casey talked about the noise ordinance not being enforced on Bridge Street and Douglas Avenue. Councilor Casey asked if those areas could be patrolled more by the police. Councilor Casey recommended reviewing the noise ordinance and strengthening it. Councilor Casey asked City Attorney Aaron to explain why there is a new RFP for the Animal Shelter.

City Attorney Aaron advised pursuant to the rules that govern procurement and what the City is required to do, the City extended the contract with the Animal Welfare Coalition by renewing their contract every year, up to 4 years. City Attorney Aaron advised they are required to do an RFP at the end of every 4 years.

Councilor Casey advised there has been a lot of loss, people lost their homes, structures and animals. Councilor Casey commended the Sheriff's Office, the Police Department, Fire Department and all the employees for getting out there and helping. Councilor Casey commended Councilors Romero, Ulibarri and Montoya for being instrumental in helping people along the way. Councilor Casey commended Mayor Trujillo for doing a commendable job by addressing issues that were vital for the safety and wellbeing of the community. Councilor Casey advised everyone worked together to make sure that services continued to be provided to the people of Las Vegas.

Mayor Trujillo discussed working with Police Chief Salazar on speed enforcement and noise ordinances.

### **POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Police Chief Salazar discussed the noise ordinance and the complaints from loud exhausts.

Mayor Trujillo asked if officers had decibel readers.

Police Chief Salazar advised in New Mexico and per state statute it is based on officer's discretion.

Councilor Montoya asked if there could be an ordinance to not allow motorcycles down Bridge Street and around the Plaza.

Police Chief Salazar advised that it's a public road and would be hard to restrict certain vehicles.

Mayor Trujillo recognized all the officers for attending the meeting and thanked them for their service.

Police Chief Salazar gave a detailed presentation regarding the statistics for the Month of April on the following:

- Field Operations Division (patrol)
  - Special Operations conducted
  - Assisted with Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire
- Code Enforcement calls
- Animal Control calls
- Information Division (records)
- Communications Division calls
- Street Crimes
  - Meetings and trainings
- Training/Recruiting/Travel
  - NM Law Enforcement Academy
  - Investigative Interrogation Training
  - BBS Drug Investigation Training
  - LEEDA Managing and Conducting Internal Affairs
  - SFST Instructor Course
- Honor Guard
- Letters of Interest received for Sergeant position
- Community Events
  - Attended Child Abuse Awareness
- Department vacancies (18)

Police Chief Salazar introduced Officers Justin Padilla and Jordan Ellis who graduated from the NM Law Enforcement Academy. Police Chief Salazar acknowledged Officer Padilla for taking Top Drive at the NM Law Enforcement Academy.

Discussion took place regarding interviews for the Sergeant position, high priority calls over loud exhausts and speeding and if it's illegal to have modified exhausts or no exhaust in New Mexico.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

Interim Finance Director Chavez reported on the month of April, General fund revenues were at 90%, expenditures were at 59%, with a surplus of \$1,105,437,



the Enterprise fund revenues were at 85%, expenditures were at 69%, with a surplus of \$1,699,565, the Recreation department revenues were at 48%, expenditures were at 48%, with a surplus of \$94,731 and Lodger's Tax revenues were at 91%, expenditures were at 56%, with a surplus of \$145,541.

Mayor Trujillo asked if there was anything in the report that Council needed to know about.

Interim Finance Director Chavez advised there was not anything of concern at this time.

Councilor Casey thanked Interim Finance Director Chavez for responding to her requests for information.

Mayor Trujillo asked if the Finance Report was approved by the Finance Committee.

Interim Finance Director Chavez advised yes.

Councilor Romero thanked Interim Finance Director Chavez for stepping up and doing what needed to be done.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Request approval of Resolution 22-26 Emergency Proclamation declaring the Restriction of Fireworks.

Interim Fire Chief Spann advised the Governor had issued an Emergency declaration requesting municipalities and towns to restrict fireworks. Interim Fire Chief Spann discussed resolution 22-26. Interim Fire Chief Spann recommended banning and canceling the City firework display show.

Discussion took place regarding the fines for firework use within city limits.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Resolution 22-26, Emergency Proclamation declaring the Restriction of Fireworks. Councilor Romero seconded the motion.

Resolution No. 22-26 was presented as follows: *Due to the length of the document, a complete copy may be obtained from the City of Las Vegas, City Clerk's Office.*

Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

2. Review/Discussion and possible action regarding the City of Las Vegas Mission and Vision statements.

City Clerk Fresquez advised the next items are a requirement of the City Charter. City Clerk Fresquez advised the Mission and Vision Statements were adopted in 2009 and they've kept the same ones ever since.

Councilor Casey requested making a change to the Mission Statement to add, "and historic preservation".

Councilor Casey made a motion to change the City of Las Vegas Mission statement to read, "City of Las Vegas progressively enhances quality of life by providing essential services, promoting cultural and historic preservation and economic opportunity". Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding changing the days of Council meetings to meet the Finance Committee deadlines.



Councilor Romero asked for a point of order.

Councilor Casey made a motion to leave the City of Las Vegas Vision statement as is. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

3. Review/Discussion and possible action reviewing the top ten priorities of the previously elected Governing Body.

Councilor Romero advised he thought the item was over priorities and not the ICIP plan. Councilor Romero recommended tabling the item.

Councilor Romero made a motion to table the item until the Council Retreat. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya asked for the ICIP plan to be updated to reflect projects that have been completed.

City Manager Maestas advised he would update it.

Mayor Trujillo advised it's important for them to discuss what their priorities are as a community.

Discussion took place regarding changing the days of Council meetings to the 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month so the Finance Committee can meet deadlines.

City Clerk Fresquez advised it could be addressed during the open meetings resolution or at the retreat.

Interim Finance Director Chavez advised when they have budget adjustments sometimes it has to wait until the following month.

Discussion took place regarding the discussion of administrative duties during the Organizational meeting and what should be approved by the Finance Committee and what their duties are.

City Clerk Fesquez clarified that the items on the agenda are the items that are required by the City Charter to be on the Organizational meeting.

Mayor Trujillo recommended moving along with the agenda and discussing meeting times during the retreat at a later date.

Councilor Casey suggested having the retreat sooner rather than later.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Romero made a motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussing limited personnel matters as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) and also for the purpose of matters subject to the attorney client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigations in which the City of Las Vegas is or may become a participant, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (7) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
David Ulibarri	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Romero made a motion to exit executive session and reconvene into regular session after being in executive session for the purpose of discussing limited personnel matters as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) and also for the purpose of matters subject to the attorney client privilege pertaining to

threatened or pending litigations in which the City of Las Vegas is or may become a participant, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (7) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978 and only those matters were discussed and no action was taken. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

4. Confirmation of appointed officer, City Manager Leo Maestas.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the appointment of City Manager Leo Maestas. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

5. Confirmation of appointed officer, City Attorney Scott Aaron.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the appointment of City Attorney Scott Aaron. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

6. Confirmation of appointed officer, City Clerk Casandra Fresquez.



Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the appointment of City Clerk Casandra Fresquez. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

7. Confirmation of appointed officer, Police Chief Antonio Salazar.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the appointment of Police Chief Antonio Salazar. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

Councilor Romero advised Police Chief Salazar's contract would need to be brought back to council.

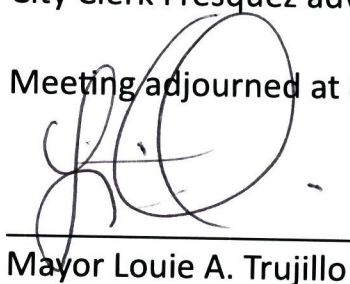
**ADJOURN**

Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

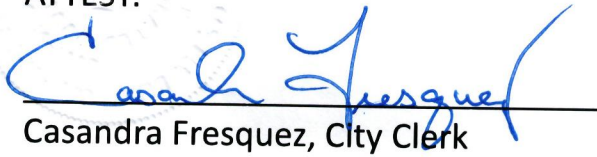
Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.



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Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk